

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 8-15 are presently pending in this application, Claims 1-7 having been canceled by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 2, 3 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite; and Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Doi et al. (U.S. Patent 6,190,455) in view of the admitted prior art and Subramanian et al. (U.S. Patent 6,270,579). However, Claims 8-15 were indicated as allowed.

First, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that Claims 8-15 have been allowed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that Claims 1-7 currently being rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 and §103(a) be canceled without prejudice.

Application No. 09/884,978
Reply to Office Action of October 15, 2003

In light of the prior indication of allowed claims and in view of the amendments presented above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding and thus the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request an early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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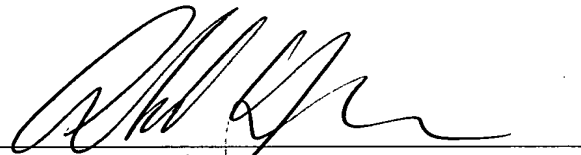
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